Gc
929.2
B7135g
2009841

M.

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1833 01204 1262

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018

https://archive.org/details/motherinlawofrev00codd

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW OF THE REVEREND PETER PRUDDEN WITH A PEDIGREE OF THE BOYSE FAMILY

BY

JOHN INSLEY CODDINGTON, A.M.

Olivet, Mich.

Reprinted from "The American Genealogist"

January, 1943

028

78 9401 13

13

2009841

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW OF THE REVEREND PETER PRUDDEN WITH A PEDIGREE OF THE BOYSE FAMILY

By John Insley Coddington, A.M., of Olivet, Michigan

All descendants of the Reverend Peter Prudden, Pastor and Founder of Milford, Connecticut, and all persons interested in the history of the New Haven Colony and the development of Connecticut, are full of gratitude to Mr. S. Allyn Peck for his most valuable and illuminating articles on Mr. Prudden and his English ancestry, which appeared in The American Genealogist, vol. 16, pp. 1-28, 122-3 and 177-9, and vol. 17, pp. 52-5. In the first of these articles (vol. 16, pp. 8-12), Mr. Peck also discussed the family of Joanna Boyse, the second wife of the Reverend Peter Prudden, and the mother of all his known children. Earlier discussions of this lady and her family, as well as accounts of her subsequent marriages to Captain Thomas Willett and to the Reverend John Bishop are to be found in Lilian E. Prudden, *Peter Prudden* (New Haven, Conn., 1901), pp. 16-8, 34-5, 54-61 and 107-13; in Donald Lines Jacobus, *Families of Old Fairfield* (New Haven, Conn., 1930-2), vol. 1, p. 494; and in George Clarke Bryant, "The Prudden-Burr Connection," *New England Historical & Genealogical Register*, vol. 84 (1930), pp. 63-4.

Joanna Boyse or Boys was a daughter (apparently the fifth and youngest daughter) of the Reverend John Boyse or Boys, sometime lecturer in the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist at Halifax, co. York, by his wife Joan. It is the purpose of this article to show the identity of Joan, wife of the Reverend John Boyse or Boys, and mother of Joanna Boyse, who married (1) the Reverend Peter Prudden, (2) Captain Thomas Willett, and (3) the Reverend John Bishop.

The Reverend John Boyse or Boys was a Yorkshireman. He owned property (which he mentioned in his will) in the parish of Great Edston, co. York; and his brother, William Boyse, lived in that parish, so it is altogether likely that the Reverend John Boyse's ancestors came from Great Edston or its neighborhood. It is also probable that he was identical with the John Boyse who matriculated as sizar from St. John's College, Cambridge, in the Michaelmas Term, 1585, and received his B.A. in 1589-90 and his M.A. in 1593; though this identification is not certain.[1]

After his ordination, the Reverend John Boyse must have settled in Kent, and he must have been the incumbent of a parish

[1] *Alumni Cantabrigienses*, ed. by J. and J. A. Venn, part I, vol. 1 (Cambridge, 1922), p. 195.

Recd aug 7-1978

in that county for a number of years. It has not yet been possible to discover which of the parishes of Kent he served as pastor. At some time in his career, he became a Nonconformist, and was eventually banished out of Kent for his nonconformity, whereupon he and his family returned to his native county of York. The Reverend John Favour, LL.D., who was Vicar of Halifax, co. York, from 1593 till his death in 1623, was a famous Puritan, and he invited Boyse to come to Halifax, and serve as lecturer in the church there. Boyse accepted this invitation, and spent the last years of his life at Halifax. He is described as "a choice man, very laborious in the work of the Lord, [who] catechised all the poor, expounded to them in the church one day in the week, and gave them money."[2] The Reverend John Boyse died at Halifax 30 April 1620, and his epitaph was formerly to be seen in the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist there. It read: "John Boyes: Abiit non obiit, Anno Dom: 1620, Aprill 30th." This inscription was erected by Boyse's friend Edmund Brearcliffe.[3]

It is important to note that Heywood's diary explicitly states that the Reverend John Boyse was banished out of *Kent* for his nonconformity.[4] There was a family named Boys in Kent,[5] and this is confusing; but it is certain that our man did not belong to the Kentish family, in spite of his long residence in the southern county.

The Reverend John Boyse made his will at Halifax, 13 July 1619, and it was proved at York 8 February 1620/1 by Joan Boyse, the relict and executrix named. The will is given in full in L. E. Prudden, *Peter Prudden*, pp. 107-10. One item in the will (according to this book, p. 110) reads:

> "Item, I give to John Stucoe of Biddingden my wives brother £X if and when he shall come to Halifax to the comforting of my said wife."

According to W. J. Walker, *Halifax Parish Church*, p. 103, this same paragraph in John Boyse's will reads:

> "Item, I give to John Stawe of Biddingden, my wives brother, 40s. if and when he shall come to Hallifax to the comforting of my said wife."

The present writer carefully examined the original will of the

---

[2] Diary of the Rev. Oliver Heywood, quoted in the *Papers of the Halifax Antiquarian Society* for 1907, p. 215b.

[3] William James Walker, *Chapters on the Early Registers of Halifax Parish Church* (Halifax, 1885), pp. 102-4.

[4] *The Life and Diaries of Oliver Heywood*, ed by J. Horsfall Taylor, 4 vols. (Brighouse, 1881-5), vol. 4, p. 16. See also vol. 1, p. 57.

[5] For the Boys family of Kent, see Edward Hasted, *History of Kent* (12 vols., Canterbury, 1797-1801), vol. 3, pp. 70, 565; vol. 4, pp. 184, 223; William Berry, *Kent Genealogies* (London, 1830), pp. 16, 438-47, 453; and *Publications of the Harleian Society*, vol. 42 (Visitation of Kent, 1619), pp. 38, 92.

Reverend John Boyse at York in the summer of 1936, and is convinced that the correct reading of the above paragraph is:

> "Item, I give to John *Stowe* of Biddingden, my wives brother, 40*s*. if and when he shall come to Hallifax to the comforting of my said wife."

When one remembers that the Reverend John Boyse spent many years in Kent, it becomes obvious that "Biddingden" is Biddenden, co. Kent. John Stowe of Biddenden, Mrs. Boyse's brother, was baptized at Biddenden 14 January 1581/2, and died at Roxbury, Mass., 26 October 1643. He married at Biddenden 13 September 1608 Elizabeth Bigge, who was baptized at Cranbrook, co. Kent, 1 November 1590, and was buried at Roxbury, Mass., 21 August 1638. The Stowes migrated from Biddenden to New England in 1638, and settled at Roxbury. They were the parents of nine children, from whom many New England families descend.[6] John Stowe's sister Joan was baptized at Biddenden 7 August 1575. She was the eldest daughter of John Stowe of Biddenden, innkeeper, by his wife Joan (Baker). The will[7] of Joan (Baker) Stowe was dated 30 April 1616, and in it the testatrix bequeathed 10*s*. to her daughter Joane, and 10*s*. more to the latter's daughter Mary, unfortunately without giving their family names. Joan (Stowe) Boyse, widow of the Reverend John Boyse, died at Halifax, and was buried there 9 July 1630. Her will, dated 21 June 1630, and proved at York 28 April 1631, is given in full in L. E. Prudden, *Peter Prudden*. pp. 111-3.

PEDIGREE OF THE BOYSE FAMILY

The Reverend JOHN BOYSE or BOYS was probably born at or near Great Edston, co. York, about 1569. He probably matriculated as sizar from St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1585; proceeded B.A. in 1589/90, and M.A. in 1593. He served as incumbent of some parish in Kent for many years, became a Nonconformist, and was banished from Kent for nonconformity. He became a lecturer at the Parish Church at Halifax, co. York, and died there 30 April 1620. He married, probably in Kent, at an unknown date, JOAN STOWE, daughter of John and Joan (Baker) Stowe, of Biddenden, co. Kent. She was baptized at Biddenden 7 August 1575, and died at Halifax, where she was buried 9 July 1630. She was a sister of John Stowe of Biddenden, who settled at Roxbury, Mass., and she was connected by marriage with Hopestill Foster, Dr. Comfort and Dr. Thomas Starr, Thomas Betts, and other New England settlers who came from Kent.

---

[6] For the Stowe family, see Elizabeth French (now Mrs. J. Gardner Bartlett), "The Stowe Family," *New England Historical & Genealogical Register*, vol. 70 (1916), pp. 347-9; and John Insley Coddington, "The Stowe Family," *Ibid.*, vol. 93 (1939), pp. 296-8. For the Bigge family, see John Insley Coddington, "The Bigge Family," *Ibid.*, vol. 92 (1938), pp. 395-8.

[7] Abstract of the will in *N. E. H. & G. Register*, vol. 93, p. 297.

Children, i.-vi. probably born in Kent, exact order unknown:

i. MARY, named in the will of her grandmother, Joan (Baker) Stowe, and perhaps therefore the eldest, d. unmarried at Halifax, and was bur. there 7 Jan. 1627/8.

ii. SAMUEL, named as eldest son in his father's will in 1620; d. unmarried before his mother made her will in 1630; his burial is not to be found in the Halifax Parish Register.

iii. ELIZABETH, m. at Halifax 27 May 1629 ROBERT SIMONDS or SYMONDS of Sowerby in the parish of Halifax, co. York.

iv. SILENCE, m. at Halifax 8 December 1630 THOMAS ROBINSON. They migrated to New England in 1636, and settled at Roxbury, Mass. They removed to Scituate, Mass., in 1642, and Silence d. (probably at Scituate) before 10 Jan. 1653/4, when Thomas Robinson remarried. He d. at Boston, Mass., about 1665. Thomas and Silence (Boyse) Robinson had three sons baptized at Halifax, and may have had more children born in New England.

v. ANNA, m. at Bradford, co. York, 12 Aug. 1633, the Rev. JOHN REYNOR (also spelled RAYNER, RAYNOR and REYNER). He was b. at Gildersome in the parish of Batley, co. York, about 1605, and was educated at Magdalen College, Cambridge (B.A. 1625). The Rev. John and Anna (Boyse) Reynor migrated to New England about 1635-6, and settled at Plymouth. Mr. Reynor was the teacher at Plymouth, 1636-1655. He became a freeman in 1637-8. He was called by the Church at Dover, N. H., to become its pastor in 1655, and retained this position until his death, at Dover, 21 April 1669. Anna (Boyse) Reynor d. at Plymouth before 1642, when Mr. Reynor remarried. The Rev. John and Anna (Boyse) Reynor had two surviving children, Jachin Reynor (later of Rowley, Mass.), and Anna or Hannah Reynor, who m. in Sept. 1660 Job Lane of Malden, Mass.

vi. JOANNA, came to New England in 1636 with her brother-in-law and sister, Thomas and Silence (Boyse) Robinson, and settled at Roxbury, Mass., where, as "Joan Boyse, a maid," she was a member of the Rev. John Eliot's congregation in the latter part of 1636. She m. (1) about 1637-8 (as his second wife), the Rev. PETER PRUDDEN. He was b. in Dec. 1601, probably at or near Kings Walden, co. Hertford, or Luton, co. Bedford; was educated at the Merchant Tailors' School, London, 1616-7, and at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, 1620. He labored and preached in South Wales and Hertfordshire, and came to New England in 1637, for he was at Boston on 26 June 1637. He was at New Haven and Wethersfield, Conn., in 1638; and he founded Milford, Conn., in 1640, and was Pastor of the Church at Milford from 1640 till his death in July 1656. The Rev. Peter and Joanna (Boyse) Prudden had nine children, born at Milford.[8] She m. (2) at Milford, 20 Sept. 1671 (as his second wife), Captain THOMAS WILLETT. The parentage and place and date of birth of this famous man are not yet surely known.[9]

---

[8] For further details concerning the Rev. Peter Prudden and his descendants, see the works mentioned in the first paragraph of this article.

[9] It is asserted (without proof) by Daniel H. Carpenter, "The Willet Record," *New York Genealogical & Biographical Record*, vol. 33 (1902), p. 106, that Capt. Thomas Willett was bapt. at Barley, co. Hertford, 29 Aug. 1605, son of the Rev. Andrew and Jacobina (Goad) Willett. On the other hand, George Canning Burgess stated his belief, in "Thomas Willett of Leyden and Plymouth, First Mayor of New York," *N. E. H. & G. Register*, vol. 61 (1907), pp. 157-64, that Capt. Thomas Willett was b. at Leyden, and was a son of Thomas and Alice Willett, members of the Pilgrim colony in that town.

He spent a considerable part of his youth at Leyden, and knew the Dutch language well. He is said to have come to New England on one of the later voyages of the *Mayflower*,[10] arriving at Plymouth 15 May 1629, with several other former residents of Leyden. He was soon sent to the Plymouth Colony's outpost, the Penobscot trading house, on the coast of the present State of Maine; and he was left in charge of that post in 1630, and remained in charge of it till he was ejected by the French in 1635. Meanwhile, he was made a freeman of Plymouth *in absentia*, 1 July 1633. He was at Plymouth, 1635-1639, and he m. (1) there, 6 July 1636, Mary Brown. He was master of the Plymouth trading house at Kennebec, 1639-1640.[11] He then returned to Plymouth to live, but engaged in trading activities all over New England and New Netherlands. He had 6 acres of land in the North Precinct of Plymouth (now Kingston, Mass.) in 1643. He was chosen Captain of the Plymouth military forces, in succession to Myles Standish, 7 March 1647/8. He was a member of a commission to settle the boundary between the English and Dutch colonies in Sept. 1650, and was appointed by Gov. Peter Stuyvesant to represent the Dutch interests on that commission. He was an Assistant in Plymouth Colony, 1651-1665, though he left Plymouth itself, and removed to Rehoboth in 1651 or 1652. Willett is said to have been so friendly to the Dutch that he warned them of the impending attack by the English in 1664. Because of his knowledge of the Dutch language and his friendship for the Dutch people, Willett was appointed the first (English) Mayor of New York, 12 June 1665, and held office till the summer of 1666; and again from the summer of 1667 to the summer of 1668. After that, he left New York, and settled at Swansea, Mass. He d. in that part of Swansea which is now Seakonk, 4 Aug. 1674, and was bur. at the head of Bullock's Cove, in what is now East Providence, R. I. By his second wife, Joanna (Boyes) (Prudden) Willett, he had no children. She m. (3), at a date which has not been ascertained, the Rev. JOHN BISHOP of Stamford, Conn., as his second wife. The Reverend John Bishop is said[12] to be identical with the John Bishop who was born about 1612, son of William Bishop of Holway, co. Dorset, commonor, and who matriculated at Balliol College, Oxford, 20 April 1632, aged 20, and graduated B.A. 7 June 1632, and proceeded M.A. 15 April 1635, and was Rector of Batcombe, co. Dorset, 1636-1640.[13] The Reverend John Bishop arrived in New England in 1640, and settled at Taunton. He is said to have gone on foot from Taunton to Stamford in 1644, and he served as minister of Stamford for 50 years, from 1644 to his death in the winter of 1694-5. He m. (1), probably soon after his removal to Stamford, Rebecca Goodyear, who was b. about 1626, daughter of Stephen and Mary Goodyear of London, England, and New Haven, Conn. She was the mother of all his children. The Reverend John Bishop survived both his wives. In his will, dated 16 Nov. 1694, he expressed the desire to be buried between his two wives, Rebecca and Joanna, "who

---

[10] Charles E. Banks, M.D., *The Planters of the Commonwealth* (Boston, 1930), p. 65.

[11] For Capt. Thomas Willett's career in Maine, see Sybil Noyes, Charles Thornton Libby and Walter Goodwin Davis, *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire* (Portland, Me., 1928-39), p. 754.

[12] Rev. Frederick Lewis Weis, *The Colonial Clergy of the Colonial Churches of New England* (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), p. 33.

[13] See *Alumni Oxonienses*, 1500-1714, ed. by Joseph Foster, 4 vols. (Oxford, 1891-2), vol. 1, p. 130.

2009841

are fallen asleep in Jesus and gone to heaven before me.'' He d. between 16 Nov. 1694 and 12 March 1694/5, the date of probate of the will.[14]

vii. JOHN, bapt. at Halifax 14 April 1618, was the younger son when his father made his will in 1620, and the only surviving son when his mother made her will in 1630. His mother made careful provision for his education. He was killed in April 1643 in a skirmish between the Parliamentary and royal forces, within 2 miles of Leeds, co. York. He was not married, and his surviving sisters, and the children of his deceased sister Anna (Boyse) Reynor, became coheirs to the Boyse estates in Yorkshire.

---

[14] The account of the Rev. John Bishop in Nathaniel Holmes Bishop, "The Rev. John Bishop," *N. Y. G. & B. Record*, vol. 28 (1897), pp. 129-131, is vague and not entirely satisfactory. A much better account is in Jacobus, *Old Fairfield*, vol. 1, p. 77. For the identity of Rebecca Goodyear, see D. L. Jacobus, "Deputy Governor Stephen Goodyear of New Haven, Rev. John Bishop of Stamford, and the Lake and Watts Families of Boston," THE AMERICAN GENEALOGIST, vol. 16, pp. 193-200, especially p. 196.